

9-16-1875

Letter from Anne Whitney, Ecouen, France, to Sarah Whitney, 1875 September 16

Anne Whitney

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Ecconen. Thurs. Sept. 16 - 75

My Beloved Sister - Your letter
postmarked 2^d & addressed to
Care of P. Co. & Postu rest^e - also -
must have puzzled the Parisian
post-master I think at first sight -
but he scored off Per. & Co. (after
a moments thought perhaps) & wisely
sent it on to me. Did I say any-
thing about directing to P. Co? no.
I am sure I did not. & Postu
restante means - remain at P. Co.
until claimed - but live & learn -
You will ~~at once~~ thought it - out
immediately - I suspect bef. The next
week came round - I have a pang
of severe disappointment - in learn-
ing that Katy was to return &
that you were not to join them -
What can I say or do off here?
I do very much want you to take a
little charge - my dear - even if it
is not positively or by no means a
charge for the better. Take a run
& Mt. Desert with some one -
James wrote me that (Aug. 28)
that he was going to Boston - would
that you two might go together

all over here for English angle is somewhat less than that on the other side.

for a little space. Somewhere.
I am afraid you have all been
annoyed by that model business.
Take life more easily - as you
wrote to me some time ago. Why,
I couldn't conceive - & perhaps you
are as much at a loss.

We stay on at this place, partly
because we are at work ~~here~~ & partly
because we have such a comfortable
home here & Paris does not call
until the 15-12 oct. Our comfort
as regards food & living has been on
the increase steadily since we came.
We now think that our host of the
restaurant makes the best bread in
France. & don't know what we shall do
when we go back to the City! Also we
have good vegetables & meat. Fruit.
grapes, peaches, pears & plums all
the time & the best of Bordeaux
wine at next nothing a bottle.
I can give you no idea of the beauty
& variety of the country round us.
Every sunset we find a new
walk wh. surpasses all that have
gone bef. Such apple orchards
I have never seen as one finds here
but if I begin to tell you - the all that
I cannot tell will go right to suffocate
me & I will stop.

I will enclose a note to James
as I wrote him not long since
& have not much to say except
back his help in finding a garden
nick. M. whose mother I know
here & who is in great trouble that
she does not hear from her. Please
forward it - at once.

Sunday Sept 19. Tomorrow I expect the
Statuary to cast the head of a venerable
witch that I have been laboring at
for some time. I did think to keep it
until another head wh. must be cast
in a few days shd. be done. but now
comes upon the clay & annoys me. &
so we must have two jobs of it. Next
Sunday I will tell you how the matter
turns out. This afternoon I have to return
to the studio where in fact I spent
the morning (contrary to my usual custom
on Sundays) as I am expecting the visit
of an artist whose request to see my
work I have put off for some weeks.
A gentle rain is falling. after a long
recess of delicious days. Nothing could
be more consummately beautiful than
Aug. & Sept. here. I am glad your dog
days are over.

My dear Church, what you say about the
dropping years - reminds me of Rabbi Ben
Ezra wh. you will find in Isaac's Person
Let me commend it to you - It begins
grow old along with me - The best is yet
to be. The last of life for wh. the world
was ~~planned~~ ^{made}. Our times are in his hands
who said - A whole I planned - Youth
shows but help. See all, trust God, now
be afraid" - Very great words.

Just as I returned from luncheon & sat
down to this - a letter from Mrs. Fields
was brought. What have I to send to the
Cent. Everything is to go in Jan. & I
will not be done. As for my summer
hours of idleness work - the thought has
struck me - that if I sh. find among
French Artists yet to know as cordial &
generous delight in these things as in those
already known it wd not be a bad stroke
to put their busts into the Salon (the
great yearly exhibition) here. but it will
depend - as I said - I shall know the
sculptors in Paris - & among them Perroux
is one of the best - whom I have already
seen & who will come to my studio & give
me the benefit of friendly criticism.
The faun's head sh. not be cast in marble
before mid-winter -

Trusting that mother & all are revived by
the autumnal winds. Love ever Yrs
I sent a letter to Katy (D. Edwards) more
than 5 weeks ago - I sh. say -

the weight
By the way
I have a small envelope